

SOARING AMERICAN ENERGY COSTS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the energy crisis that my Hoosiers and all Americans are facing.

This week, President Biden jetted off to Glasgow to rub shoulders with world dignitaries and to take a nap.

American energy costs are soaring while he is sleeping, and the bottom line is this: This administration needs to worry less about their image and more about how Hoosiers can keep their lights on, heat their homes this winter, and afford to fill up their gas tanks.

EARTH SCIENCE LESSON ON
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about evapotranspiration.

Perhaps you are not used to getting a mini Earth science lesson on the floor of the House, but hear me out for a minute.

Nevada boasts 300 sunny days a year. It is great for hiking and biking, not so great when it comes to precipitation and our growing severe drought. But we can't just rely on precipitation data in understanding our drought because we are losing water with all of our sunny days.

Evapotranspiration, or ET, is the combination of water lost through evaporation from the land and transpiration from plants. It is a critical measurement that we need to plan for the future of western water.

Until recently, and frankly, to my surprise, water managers could not access this data. But a group of scientists, academics, advocacy organizations, and even corporations are working to change that.

OpenET is filling the biggest data gap in water management by giving everyone access to ET data, and I mean everyone. You can Google it and pull it right up on your computer.

From water managers, to utility providers, to farmers and ranchers, to conservationists, this data will help folks across the West make better water decisions to protect our most vital resource for decades to come.

That is exactly why I have introduced the bipartisan, bicameral Open Access Evapotranspiration Act with Senator CORTEZ MASTO to fill these critical data gaps and inform drought solutions across the West.

I am all in when it comes to finding solutions for Nevada's drought. We must explore every option and make these investments before it is too late.

THE TIME IS NOW TO LOWER DRUG PRICES

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we continue to negotiate the Build Back Better Act.

When I ran for Congress, I promised my constituents that I would do everything to fight for lower drug prices.

Over and over again in townhalls, I hear from my constituents that they

are so extremely worried about how they are going to pay for prescription drugs. In fact, one in five seniors reports not taking their medicines as prescribed because of the cost. I have even heard from constituents who say they skip meals so they can afford the prescriptions they need to stay healthy.

This is outrageous. I urge my colleagues to address this problem with the urgency it deserves.

With the Build Back Better agenda, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the status quo and make good on our promise that no one should have to choose between affording their prescription drugs, or putting food on the table, or paying rent.

We must enact legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs. The time is now. Our constituents all over this country are counting on us.

NCAA SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about something that plays a special role in American life, and that is college athletics.

College sports is ingrained in our culture, and its impact is far-reaching on student-athletes, alumni, and their fans.

For decades, college athletics have been governed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, more commonly known as the NCAA. The NCAA has tremendous power, really omnipotent power over college athletics. The NCAA decides the rules of play, who gets to play, and who gets the revenue.

Now, the NCAA investigates and penalizes any school, coach, or student-athlete that it claims infringes on its rules. This is what the NCAA calls the infractions process.

Let's be clear. The NCAA infraction process is systemically and fundamentally flawed. The NCAA's rules are vague, constantly changing, and irregularly enforced. The NCAA's investigations lack transparency and established procedures and are performed while universities are often kept in the dark.

Fundamentally, there is no due process for member schools nor for their students. The NCAA investigations can last years, and they cost universities millions of dollars in legal fees and other expenses.

Finally, the NCAA punishes universities and student-athletes with no consistency and no predictability. The NCAA may decide to punish one school but not another.

Without a doubt, the NCAA acts with little regard for fairness, due process, or transparency. Through its monopolistic power and lack of oversight, the NCAA has caused irreparable damage to athletic departments, to colleges, and to universities across the Nation.

That is why today I am introducing the NCAA Accountability Act with my

colleagues, Representatives BURGESS OWENS and JOSH HARDER.

This bipartisan legislation will establish due process protections for any athlete, university, or individual going through the NCAA infraction process. These protections include fair notice on enforcement proceedings, a defined statute of limitations, and a deadline for the completion of investigations.

The NCAA Accountability Act also includes mechanisms to ensure that NCAA sanctions are equitable and fit the alleged infraction.

Universities will have the right to resolve punishment disputes with the NCAA through binding arbitration. This will bring an independent, unbiased voice into the process to ensure that an equitable outcome is obtained.

If the NCAA fails to comply with these obligations, the Department of Justice will have the authority to fine the NCAA and its staff, and the Department of Justice will have the power to permanently remove any member from the NCAA Board of Governors.

For our universities and our student-athletes, it is vital that Congress end the NCAA's long reign as prosecutor, judge, jury, and executioner over college athletics.

I urge my colleagues to support this important, bipartisan legislation that will finally hold the NCAA accountable.

LOWERING COSTS OF
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, years ago, I began running for Congress because I believed that hardworking Americans shouldn't have to pay three times what people in other countries pay for the same exact medicines.

I ran for Congress because I believed that none of our constituents should have to pay \$20,000 a year for insulin, a medication they quite literally cannot live without.

I ran for Congress because I believe that Minnesotans deserve a Representative who will fight to lower the cost of drugs, even in the face of millions of dollars in attack ads funded by Big Pharma.

My fellow colleagues, this week we have a real opportunity to make a difference in our constituents' lives, to save American families thousands of hard-earned dollars every single year, while finally standing up to an industry that has raked in record-breaking profits at the expense of hardworking Americans.

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We cannot allow this opportunity to pass us by.

Empowering Medicare to negotiate drug prices would not only grant long overdue relief to struggling constituents but save the American taxpayers billions of dollars annually.

We may not get everything we wanted in this package, but we must take the power back from Big Pharma. Big Pharma has had way too much power over this town for way too long. This is our opportunity to demonstrate to our constituents that we work for them, not for Big Pharma. We cannot return to our districts without delivering on our promise to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do what is right and fight for these critical provisions in the Build Back Better Act.

HURLEY FLOOD RESCUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks today to honor the bravery and selfless service of the law enforcement officers and other first responders that worked to ensure the safety of the residents of Buchanan County during the horrendous flooding caused by heavy rainfall in the small town of Hurley, Virginia, on August 30, 2021.

Their efforts saved lives and were core to rescue and recovery following the destructive power of the flood. Particularly, I honor Buchanan County Sheriff John McClanahan, Deputy Raymond Webb, Deputy Lieutenant Brandon Hall, Deputy Lieutenant Ryan Mitchell, Deputy Billy Owens, Deputy Aaron Skeens, Deputy Andy Webb, Deputy John Hagy III, and Deputy Tasha Meadows.

The excessive rainfall resulted in blocked roadways, numerous landslides, and severe flooding in the town of Hurley. There were school closures from the storm as well. All of this caused devastating damage and jeopardized the safety of many.

In the face of danger, these officers and first responders of Buchanan County displayed great heroism by rescuing a number of citizens from harm's way. The storm caused a level of flooding in Hurley which has not been seen for nearly 20 years and matched any level of devastation from a natural disaster that I have seen in the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia.

Hundreds of residents had to evacuate their homes. As many as a thousand were left without power and drinking water, and I saw roughly 20 homes that had been uprooted from their foundations. But the terrible flood was also an occasion of heroism and helping others. Besides the deputies and the sheriff, around 500 volunteers lent their time to rescue and cleanup efforts.

Mr. Speaker, let me highlight one remarkable rescue from the flooding on Monday, August 30, 2021, involving a woman trapped in her home.

The woman's mobile home had been swept off its foundation, carried downstream, and when it crashed into a railroad trestle, the home, with the woman

inside of it, was caught between the raging water and the train trestle. The home would have continued further downstream if it had not been trapped at the trestle. And as officers quickly arrived on the scene, her home was already little more than rubble.

As the water thundered by and the rain continued to pour down, the trailer, surrounded by water, was precariously positioned and appeared ready to collapse completely at any moment. Amid this peril, the officers showed no regard for their own safety as they came to the rescue.

Deputy Raymond Webb was first to arrive on the scene. He crossed the railroad tracks, climbed over to where the collapsed home remained, with water raging around, and was able to cut a hole in the roof of what was left of the house.

Shortly after, Sheriff John McClanahan and Deputies Skeens, Meadows, Hall, Mitchell, Owens, Webb, and Hagy arrived at the scene to assist with the rescue. Deputy Raymond Webb tied a rope around the woman, while the rest of the officers and personnel retrieved her and pulled her out of the trailer and up to safety. Thanks to the rapid response of these officers from the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, she was rescued from the battered trailer.

Mr. Speaker, this storm was devastating for the town of Hurley. In a time when the community was in great need, these officers courageously came together to do their utmost to ensure the safety and security of those who were in harm's way.

I offer my gratitude to the officers from the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, as well as all the community leaders and first responders that played a hand in keeping Hurley safe on that day and the days that followed.

TIPS FOR PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise, many of us being survivors of sexual harassment and violence, because we are tired of victim blaming. We are tired of being told that if we had just done this or done that it wouldn't have happened to us. We are tired of being told to feel guilty about what we wore or what we said. We are tired of our truth being dismissed.

Today, I rise to change the narrative and give some tips instead for how to prevent sexual violence. So let's talk about it.

If you are thinking about putting drugs in someone's drink, don't.

If you can't keep yourself from committing sexual assault, always have a trusted friend by your side to stop you from committing sexual assault.

If you encounter someone who is drunk, unconscious or asleep, do not commit sexual assault against that person.

If you see someone walking by themselves, just leave them alone.

If you are worried about committing sexual assault, make sure you wear something that will remind you not to, like a sign or a sticker.

If you think you might commit sexual assault, always carry a whistle. When you find yourself about to commit sexual assault, blow the whistle until someone else stops you.

To every survivor of sexual violence, know that no matter how hard the media or your peers or your family or others try to make you feel that what happened to you was your fault, it was not.

Hear me when I say this: It was not your fault.

Know that your congresswoman is working every day to build a world where sexual violence no longer exists, a world where survivors are protected, where we have access to the care that we need, which includes abortion care, a world where the instinct to blame the survivors is replaced with one to provide healing and care.

Know that in this moment that I love you and that there are others who love you and want to make sure you are healthy, and you are protected. We see you. We hear you. We love you.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the advocates for giving us all these great tips.

PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM A POROUS BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, before my commentary on this disastrous border self-inflicted by this administration, I want to speak on behalf of my fellow Texans.

I think I can say this with confidence: They welcome the immigrant, the God-fearing, freedom-loving immigrant that wants to make this country their home, pledge allegiance to our flag, embrace our ideals and improve even our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, we welcome the immigrant, but only if they respect our laws, our sovereignty, and the safety of our fellow Americans.

Since January, this administration has created an unprecedented and unmitigated crisis at our southern border. They have repealed every effective measure that was in place to stop the flow of illegal Americans and to secure the border. They have willfully disregarded the Constitution and its mandate on the people's government to provide for the common defense.

Our President has failed to faithfully uphold the law, to fulfill the sacred duty to enforce the laws of the land. They have completely ceded control of our border and the sovereignty of this great country to paramilitary drug cartels. They have enriched, empowered, these narco terrorists at the expense of the vulnerable migrants who take this dangerous trek and, most importantly, at the expense of the American people, our families, our children.